

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 15.7

STEREOTACTIC RADIOFREQUENCY PALLIDOTOMY WITH
MICROELECTRODE MAPPING FOR TREATMENT OF
PARKINSON'S DISEASE

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I. PROCEDURE CODES

61720

II. DESCRIPTION

Pallidotomy (a new procedure) is a neurosurgical procedure involving a surgical lesion of the globus pallidus, which lies in the basal ganglia portion of the brain, with the aim of controlling one or more of the major symptoms of parkinsonism, including tremor, rigidity, and hypokinesia, in those patients who have not responded adequately to medical treatment.

III. POLICY

Pallidotomy for Parkinson's disease may be cost-shared when the patient has a diagnosis of idiopathic Parkinson's disease.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Patients exhibiting signs of early dementia.

B. Elderly patients with very advanced disease, autonomic symptoms, severe speech impairment.

C. Patients with "Parkinson's Plus" syndrome which mimic true Parkinson's disease, e.g., postural instability, freezing, poor speech volume and swallowing difficulties.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE November 1, 1996.

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